

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

The above Amendment amends claims 1-5 and adds new claims 6 and 7. Thus, upon its entry, claims 1-7 will be pending in the application. Of these, claims 1 and 5 are independent. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,829,398 to Ouchi (“Ouchi”). In addition, claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,055,255 to Suyama et al. (“Suyama”). Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

As amended, the pending claims recite a semiconductor laser that, itself, has a function capable of changing a radiation angle of a light. Changing the radiation angle of a light allows for selecting either one of beam light propagation and diffused light propagation. With beam light propagation, one-to-one communication may be conducted between one on a transmitting side and one on a receiving side. However, with diffused light propagation, one-to-many communication may be conducted between one on a transmitting side and one or more on a receiving side. Consequently, both one-to-one and one-to-many communications may be performed with a single semiconductor

laser. An advantage of this aspect is that it allows for reductions in the size of instruments.

Applicant asserts that the applied references neither teach nor suggest the radiation angle changing features of the claimed invention. In Ouchi, converting an optical path with an optical path converting structure is regarded as a plurality of different oscillation modes. However, Ouchi neither teaches nor suggests that the semiconductor laser that in itself has a function capable of changing a radiation angle of a light, as set forth in the amended claims.

Suyama fails to overcome these deficiencies. In particular, Suyama merely discloses a radiation angle that is preferably made constant. Hence, this references does not disclose changing a radiation angle. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Ouchi and Suyama.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5254.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 11/8/2005

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